

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
EB-07 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 /072 W
-----111232Z 003942 /12

R 111000Z JAN 77 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5464
INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TC
SUBJ: ABU DHABI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESHUFFLED

REF: ABU DHABI 0048

1. FOLLOWING IN WAKE OF RESHUFFLE OF THE UAE FEDERAL
CABINET, SHAIKH ZAYID ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 9, JUST
PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR PAKISTAN ON HIS ANNUAL HUNT,
REORGANIZATION OF ABU DHABI EMIRATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
NEW COUNCIL CONTINUES TO BE HEADED BY CROWN PRINCE
SHAIKH KALIFA BIN ZAYID. OTHER MEMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
SHAIKH THNUN BIN MUHAMMAD, VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHAIRMAN OF AL-AIN MUNICIPALITY & AGRICULTURE

SHAIKH SAIF BIN MUHAMMAD, CHAIRMAN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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SHAIKH SURUR BIN MUHAMMAD, CHAIRMAN WATER AND ELEC-
TRICITY DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENTS OF PURCHASES,
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

SHAIKH MUHAMMAD BIN BUTTI, CHAIRMAN OF ABU DHABI
MUNICIPALITY AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MUHAMMAD HABROUSH, CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT

ALI KHALFAN AL DAHIRI, CHAIRMAN OF AIRPORTS DEPARTMENT

ABDALLA AL MANSURI, CHAIRMAN OF SEAPORTS DEPARTMENT

DR. ADNAN PACHACHI, MEMBER

ABDALLA BIN NASSER, MEMBER

HAMAD AL-DARMAKI, MEMBER

AL SHAIBA BIN KHAMIS, MEMBER

ALI BIN AHMED AL TAHIRI, MEMBER

2. IN ADDITION TO SHAIKH KHALIFA, TAHNUN, SURUR, BIN BUTTI AND HABROUSH HAVE ALL HELD THEIR OWN IF NOT INCREASED THEIR POWER IN THE NEW LINEUP. TAHNUN ADDS VICE PRESIDENCY TO HIS PREVIOUS FUNCTIONS. SURUR ADDS PURCHASING ETC. TO PREVIOUSLY HELD WATER AND ELECTRICITY, BIN BUTTI GETS PUBLIC WORKS TO GO WITH ABU DHABI MUNICIPALITY (NOT TO MAINTAIN SEPARATE FUNCTIONS AS RULER'S NEW REPRESENTATIVE IN THE WESTERN REGION), AND HABROUSH BECOMES OFFICIALLY HEAD OF FINANCE WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY HE WAS AT LEAST ON PAPER DEPUTY TO KHALIFA IN THIS DEPARTMENT. (HABROUSH'S ROLE IS ALSO PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN VIEW OF FACT HE WAS DROPPED FROM FEDERAL CABINET. CONFIDENTIAL

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OBVIOUSLY POWER IS WHERE THE MONEY IS AND HE THEREFORE RETAINS MUCH OF FORMER.)

3. WHILE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO MORE CHANGES THAN FEDERAL CABINET OVER PAST FEW YEARS WITH EXACT MEMBERSHIP BECOMING SOMEWHAT OBSCURE, IT APPEARS NEWIST IS SOMEWHAT SMALLER, DOWN TO THIRTEEN MEMBERS FROM PREVIOUS SEVENTEEN. THOSE PREVIOUSLY ON COUNCIL, BUT ALSO HOLDING MAJOR FEDERAL POSITION HAVE BEEN DROPPED--I.E. SHAIKH HAMDAN (WHO LOSES LAST VESTIGES OF HIS FORMER POWER IN FIELD OF PUBLIC WORKS), SHAIKH MUBARAK, KHALIFA AL-KINDI, AHMED SUWAIDI AND MANA UTAYBA. UTAYBA'S DEPARTURE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN NAMED TO TAKE HIS PLACE AS HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM. PERHAPS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN AMALGAMATED INTO FEDERAL MINISTRY AS GESTURE TOWARDS FEDERAL POWER--THIS WILL HAVE TO BE CHECKED.

4. AMONG NEW ROLES AND/OR NAMES, JOB HAS BEEN FOUND FOR SHAIKH SAIF NOW THAT HE HAS LOST FEDERAL HEALTH POST. HE HARDLY PROMISES TO BRING MUCH STRENGTH TO THE OFT NEGLECTED PLANNING PROCESS, HOWEVER, SO ONE CAN ONLY WONDER WHY THIS PARTICULAR JOB WAS CHOSEN. PORTS AND AIRPORTS HAVE BEEN SPLIT INTO TWO DEPARTMENTS, SENSIBLE MOVE GIVEN EXPANSION GOING ON IN BOTH AREAS. ABDALLAH NASIR (DIRECTOR PROJECTS AND SENIOR LOCAL IN ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL COMPANY), ALI BIN AHMED TAHIRI (UNDER SECRETARY OF KHALIFA'S OFFICE), HAMAD AL-DARMAKI, AL-SAAIBA BIN KHAMIS (UNDER SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY FOR AL-AIN) AND ABDALLAH AL MANSURI (FORMERLY WITH THE EMIRI COURT) ARE NEW TO COUNCIL.

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0125

5. COMMENT: POWER CLEARLY REMAINS CONCENTRATED IN A FEW AND LARGELY THE SAME HANDS. EFFORT TO AVOID OVERLAP BETWEEN FEDERAL AND EMIRATE STRUCTURES IS INTERESTING, BUT IN REALITY THIS IS PAPER EXERCISE. CLEARLY PEOPLE SUCH AS SUWAIDI, UTAYBA AND THE LIKE WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN POWERFUL IN ABU DHABI CIRCLES AS WELL. ONLY HAMDAN APPEARS TO BE REAL LOSER, BUT PROCESS OF TAKING CONTROL OF ASSIGNMENT OF MAJOR

PROJECTS OUT OF HIS HANDS HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR
SOME TIME. THIS WAS BUT FINAL CHAPTER--AND AS SENIOR
MEMBER OF BENI MUHAMMAD, ONE WOULD BE WELL ADVISED
NOT TO ASSUME HAMDAN'S STAR IS IN PERMANENT ECLIPSE.
DICKMAN

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